

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10, 12-14, and 16-17 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 11 and 15 are canceled.

A replacement drawing sheet, 6/12, has been provided for Figure 6; as described above. The changes simply clarify the labels on steps S2 and S11 and do not add any new matter.

Claims 9, 10, 12-14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanter (U.S. Patent 5,537,314) in view of Postrel (U.S. Patent 6,594,640). Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanter in view of Postrel in further view of Hoffman (U.S. Patent 6,012,039). However, the present claims recite “a common point issuing step of issuing a common point ID for authenticating the customer based on the user certificates issued in the authentication step.” (Claim 14; Claim 9 contains a similar limitation) As shown in step S23 of Figure 6 and described on pages 19-22 of the specification, the present invention uses the user certificate to assist in generating a common

point ID. The common point ID is used in steps S72 and S82 of Figure 11 “to authenticate that the data sender is a registered customer” (Specification page 22, lines 4-7). Neither Kanter, Postrel, nor Hoffman discloses this step of issuing a common point ID in addition to the step of using user certificates for authentication. Accordingly, Kanter, Postrel and Hoffman do not meet the step of “issuing a common point ID” as required in the present invention. Therefore, for at least this reason, Kanter, Postrel and Hoffman fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

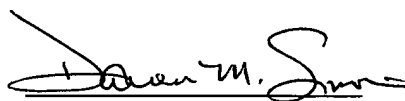
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

An extension of time fee is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No other fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet of drawings, 6/12, includes the following changes to the figures:

In Figure 6, Step S2, please amend the label to read —GENERATE PUBLIC KEY AND PRIVATE KEY. REQUEST PUBLIC KEY OF CA— as shown.

In Figure 6, Step S11, please amend the label to read —TRANSMIT PUBLIC KEY OF CA AND METHOD OF AUTHENTICATING PASS-PHRASE— as shown.

In Figure 6, Step S23, please change the term “CUSTOMOR” to —CUSTOMER— as shown.